

DRAFT SCHEDULE
for the
Essential Fish Habitat SEIS
EFH Committee and Council participation
Revised 5/14/02 by Council/NMFS staff

Date¹	Agency/Group	Action
May 15-17, 2002 Sitka	EFH Committee	Finalize fishery descriptions, review updated descriptions of EFH & HAPC designation alternatives, and move initial recommendation for HAPC site designations, discuss fishery evaluation methodology and rationalization.
June 3-10, 2002 Dutch Harbor	Council	Progress report to Council, SSC approves methodology for impacts analysis.
August 19, 2002	Council/NMFS HCD/NMFS AFSC staff	Draft progress reports sent to committee on EFH & HAPC designation, fishery impact assessment and HAPC proposal evaluation.
August 26 or 27, 2002	EFH Committee	EFH Committee teleconference to review staff draft reports (Alternatives, HAPC proposal evaluation, fishery effects analysis)
September 9, 2002	Council/ NMFS HCD/NMFS AFSC staff	Staff reports sent to EFH Committee with recommendations on EFH and HAPC alternatives, proposed HAPC's, and results of fishery effects analysis.
September 15 - 19, 2002 Kodiak	EFH Committee	Committee meeting to review staff reports and make recommendations for Council
September 30-October 7, 2002 Seattle	Council	Progress report to Council - Committee recommendations to Council- Council adopts final EFH and HAPC designation alternatives including site specific HAPC's, and alternatives to mitigate the effects of fishing.
October 15, 2002 through March 7, 2002	Council/NMFS staff Contractor - FWEC	Effects Analysis, writing, DSEIS compilation
March 17 , 2003	NMFS/Council	Preliminary Draft SEIS sent to Council and Committee
March 24 - 27 (last week) 2003	EFH Committee	Review Preliminary Draft and make recommendation to Council on Initial Action (preferred alternative)

¹ Specified dates are no-later-than dates. Actions may be completed before these dates.

March 31 - April 8, 2003 Anchorage	Council	Initial Action: Council reviews preliminary Draft SEIS, receives public testimony and selects preliminary preferred alternative(s).
April-June, 2003	Council/NMFS staff Contractor - FWEC	Make revisions as needed. Final internal review.
July 1, 2003	Council/NMFS staff Contractor - FWEC	Complete Draft SEIS. Print DSEIS.
July 15, 2003	NMFS-Region	Submit copies of Draft SEIS to HQ.
July 24, 2003	NMFS-HQ	File Draft SEIS with EPA.
August 1, 2003 ²	EPA	Publish NOA for Draft SEIS; begin 90-day public comment period. ³
August 1 through October 31, 2003	Public	Public comment period (92 days). Note: A 90 day public comment period is required by the settlement agreement (Joint Stipulation and Order).
November 3-26, 2003	NMFS-Region Contractor- FWEC	Summarize public comments.
Early December, 2003	EFH Committee	Review DSEIS and make final recommendations

² The following dates are specified in the Joint Stipulation and Order (Settlement Agreement between the Plaintiffs and Defendants, December 5, 2001). Specified tasks may be accomplished sooner than these dates, but may not be accomplished later than these dates:

June 6, 2001 - Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS Published in the Federal Register
June 6 - July 21, 2001 - Scoping Period
August 1, 2003 - Draft EIS Published
August 1 - October 31, 2003 – Draft EIS Public Comment Period
June 1, 2004 - Issuance of Final EIS
August 13, 2004 - Issuance of Record of Decision

“NMFS will approve an FMP amendment and implementing regulations no later than 24 months after the date of the ROD, unless the Secretary subsequently determines that such other action is no longer necessary. “

December 8-15, 2003 ³	Council	Final Action: Council reviews comments on Draft SEIS, receives additional testimony, adopts preferred alternative.
January-February, 2004	Council/NMFS Contractor-FWEC	Revise SEIS as needed to put in final form; draft FMP amendment text; draft proposed rules.
March, 2004 ⁴	NMFS-Region	Review/sign off on proposed FMP amendments/rule package; Final SEIS.
April 2, 2004	NMFS-Region	Submit Final SEIS to HQ.
April 8, 2004	NMFS-HQ	File Final SEIS with EPA.
April 9, 2004	Council/NMFS	Transmit proposed FMP amendments/rule package to HQ starting formal Secretarial review under MSA.
April 16, 2004	EPA/NMFS-HQ	EPA publishes NOA for Final SEIS beginning public comment Final SEIS; NMFS publishes NOA for FMP amendments beginning 60-day public comment period on FMP amendments required by MSA.
April 16-June 15, 2004	Public	Public comment period on Final SEIS and proposed FMP amendments.
May 3, 2004	NMFS-HQ	Publish NOA for proposed rules to implement FMP amendments if approved; start 45-day comment period.
July 15, 2004 ⁵	NMFS-HQ	Secretarial approval/disapproval decision on FMP amendments and ROD on Final SEIS.
September 2004	NMFS-Region/HQ	Publish final implementing rules.

³ An ESA consultation would likely be needed on the Council's preferred alternative. If a consultation were done on the preliminary preferred alternative(s), re-consultation may be necessary if the Council's preliminary and final actions are different.

⁴ This assumes that the preferred alternative selected by the Council would result in FMP amendments and implementing regulations which may not be the case.

⁵ The earliest a ROD could be produced is 30 days after April 16, 2004, under this schedule, but may be after that date to accommodate MSA schedule on proposed FMP amendments. This draft schedule is designed to culminate in a ROD and approval/disapproval decision on the same day, four weeks ahead of the Stip-mandated date of August 13, 2004.